

REMARKS

This case has been carefully reviewed and analyzed, and reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully requested.

The Examiner has stated that claims 1, 3 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bladh, US Patent 4,686,738, in view of Gretz US Patent 6,143,982. This is incorrect. Applicant respectfully urges that Bladh and Gretz fail to teach or suggest a water-preventing grommet with an inclined distal end. In addition, claim 1 is amended which is substantially the combination of original 1, 2 and 3 so as to make the claimed invention more distinguishably patentable over the prior art cited by the Examiner.

The amended claim 1 is directed to a water-preventing grommet for a pull chain switch that is usually used for a ceiling fan. Consequently, the chain is moved relative to the claimed invention when operating the pull chain switch. Claim 1 requires a body having an inclined distal end that is tapered due to the height thereof when the grommet is at a correct location for achieving the purpose of water-preventing, as shown in Fig. 4, and a downward passage defined in the inclined distal end to allow the chain extending through the grommet.

In contrast, Bladh is directed to a cable lead-in device for use in easily mounting a free end of the cable to an object. Bladh disclose that the free ends of the fingers 9 are beveled in such a manner that they will together form a substantially conical end surface 11, in column 2, lines 62-63. Not being directed to the water-preventing grommet of the present

invention, however, Bladh contains no teaching or suggestion concerning any inclined distal end for achieving a purpose of water-preventing. Gretz is directed to a C-shaped connector for use in easy insertion into a hole or knock-out of a typical junction box. The C-shaped flange radially extends from the connector 20. However, the C-shaped flange contains no teaching or suggestion concerning any purpose of water-preventing. In the specification (page 4, lines 15-17 and page 5, lines 6-8), Applicant discloses that the C-shaped flange 144 is formed on the flat distal face and repels water even when rain drops fall on the inclined flat face of the inclined distal end. One skilled in the art viewing Bladh and Gretz would not be motivated to dispose an inclined distal end with a C-shaped flange for use in a connector or a cable lead-in device for a purpose of water-preventing.

In addition, in the specification (page 4, lines 20-24), Applicant discloses that the grommet has to be mounted on the connecting tuber 22 at a correct location where the upper extending portion 141 must be the top over the lower guiding portion 143, therefore, the O-ring 126 provides a flexible capability to allow further rotating the body until the grommet is at the correct location. In the claimed invention, the O-ring is not only a means for providing additional sealing structure, but also a means for ensuring the grommet being securely rotated to the correct location to achieve the purpose of water-preventing.

In view of the remarks presented above, Applicant respectfully submits that the amended claim 1 and original claims 5 are in a condition

for allowance. An early Office Action to that effect is, therefore, earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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